

ARRA Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Workshop

On June 3rd, CMAP co-hosted an event for direct recipients of the ARRA Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) along with the State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT), and the Chicago Community Loan Fund. The main purpose of the event was to help recipients of the grants better understand the technicalities and requirements of the grant applications, as well as how to leverage funds and include strategies which provide the greatest economic and environmental impact. Several key themes emerged throughout the day, including using EECBG funds in combination with existing programs and other funding sources, and taking advantage of the technical support and resources available. The presentations along with a brief description are provided below.

DCEO Bureau of Energy and Recycling staff described the existing energy efficiency programs that can be used to help further the EECBG funds. Staff also provided an overview on the ARRA State Energy Program (SEP) funds. The SEP includes \$100 million to be awarded through a competitive grant process for renewable energy (\$33M), manufacturing/processing (\$33M), energy efficiency (\$33M), and biofuels (\$10). The department will release a request for proposals by mid June and applicants will likely have 60 days to complete. All funds must be awarded within 18 months of the effective award date (from DOE to the State). Staff then presented the EECBG eligible uses, registration and application requirements, and several online resources. Included in these resources are a series of webcasts provided by DOE, a webinar is scheduled for June 9th and is specifically geared for local governments. See information here: <http://www.eecbg.energy.gov/solutioncenter/webcasts/default.html>

View the full presentation here: [DCEO EECBG Presentation](#)

Sandra Henry for ComEd gave a presentation on ComEd's Smart Ideas program, which includes many incentive programs and technical assistance programs to help lower energy consumption and costs. These programs can be used in combination with EECBG. The presentation includes an overview of the types of projects that are eligible, as well as details on the application process and how long it takes.

View the full presentation here: [ComEd Presentation for Leveraging EECBG](#)

Anne Evens, director of CNT Energy, described how to develop an Energy Efficient and Conservation Strategy (EECS). All block grant recipients are required to submit their EECBG applications by June 25th, which includes an EECS; however, Ms. Evens stressed that applicants have the option to submit a full EECS within 120 days. For the June 25th deadline, applicants can provide a brief and broad description of the types of programs and projects they intend to include in their full strategy document, and then use the next 120 days to get organized to create effective and long-term beneficial strategies. Each component of the EECS was explained, as well as the resources and data sources available. One important resource includes CNT's new data center which will provide energy and emissions profile for each municipality in CMAP's seven county region. CNT is reaching out to the 37 direct recipients in the Chicago area to offer assistance in the strategy development process. Interested localities should contact CNT Energy Planner Lindy Wordlaw at 773-269-4012 or lindy@cntenergy.org.

View the full presentation here: [CNT Presentation on developing an Energy Efficient and Conservation Strategy](#)

Panel Discussion on Energy Audits and Implementation

A panel on energy audit resources and implementation provided a variety of perspectives and gave useful information on the benefits of audits, available resources, and concrete examples. Jon Dierking from Shaw Environmental and Infrastructure Group provided an overview on how energy audits can help lower energy consumption and costs, and emphasized the need to plan for the implementation of the audit's recommendations. **View the full presentation here: [Energy Audit Overview Presentation](#).** Michael Stanch from 360 Energy Group presented on an important resource that can be used in conjunction with EECBG funds; the Illinois Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC) offers free energy audit services. **View the full presentation here: [SEDAC Presentation for EECBG Recipients](#).** Steve Vinezeano from the Village of Niles talked through two examples of recent energy audits, including the Niles Family Fitness Center and the a pump station. These examples illustrate how available resources can help you get the job done and start benefiting, both economically and environmentally. **View the full presentation here: [Village of Niles Energy Audits](#)**

Panel Discussion on getting the most impact with EECBG

As this is an economic stimulus, job creation is one the most important goals. Kindy Kruller from the Delta Institute explained how the EECBG funds can accomplish this goal, as well as some key ways to achieve program sustainability. **View the full presentation here: [Delta Presentation: EECBG and Economic Development](#).** Doug Ferguson, Transportation Policy Analyst at CMAP, described the types of transportation projects that are eligible for EECBG funds. Doug discussed the long-term benefits transportation projects can have on the environment and highlighted other transportation funding sources that can be used in conjunction with an EECBG transportation project. **View the full presentation here: [Transportation Projects and the EECBG](#).** Bill Abolt of Shaw Environmental and Infrastructure Group highlighted the planning process that will assist in a recipient's ability to use the funds strategically and see the most impact. **View the full presentation here: [Planning Process for Maximum Impact of EECBG](#).** Bill Wiet, is Chief of Staff to Mayor Weisner of Aurora. Aurora is one of the only municipalities to have a sustainability plan. Mr. Wiet explained the process and an important, yet doable step, was to go through existing budgets from different city departments and select upcoming development projects that can be modified to be more energy efficient.

The final panel was more of an open discussion for participants to ask specific questions to the panelists, including Lindy Wordlaw from CNT, Kate Agasie from Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, David Baker from DCEO, and Bill Abolt from Shaw.

CMAP thanks all of our partners in this event for making it a success.